

Message Text

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71

ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NEA-10 AF-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-06 AS-01 /071 W
----- 127800

R 160920Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6140

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0675

FOR S/P WINSTON LORD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, US

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN PLANNING TALKS: PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENT - NEW
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PLANNING

REF: STATE 6724

1. FONOFF DISTURBED ABOUT JAN 14 YOMIURI REPORT
DATELINED WASHINGTON WHICH ANNOUNCES DATE, LOCATION,
PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION IN
UPCOMING PLANNING TALKS. PLANNING DIV DIR MATANO
CALLED IN EMBOFF JAN 14 TO POINT OUT THAT NORMAL
PROCEDURE WAS FOR BOTH SIDES TO AGREE ON JOINT ANNOUNCE-
MENT AND TO RELEASE TEXT ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE TALKS.
USUALLY, TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION NEVER MENTIONED IN
ANNOUNCEMENT. MATANO HOPES THAT WE CAN STILL FOLLOW
SAME PROCEDURE THIS YEAR. WHEN QUESTIONED BY OTHER
NEWSPAPERS ON BASIS OF YOMIURI STORY, FONOFF WILL
SIMPLY SAY THAT PREPARATIONS FOR TALKS ARE IN PROGRESS
AND THAT ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE WHEN THEY ARE
COMPLETE.

2. EMBOFF EXPRESSED CONCERN AND SAID THAT US SIDE
HAD NO PLAN TO CHANGE NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING
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PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT. EMBASSY WOULD FOLLOW FONOFF

GUIDANCE ON PRESS QUERIES. HE WONDERED WHETHER STORY MIGHT NOT HAVE COME FROM JAPANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. MATANO SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO. STORY LISTS PRESENT RESEARCH AND PLANNING BUREAU DIRGEN KAGAMI AS PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANT, IN FACT, CHANCES ARE THAT KAGAMI WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER JOB BEFORE THE TALKS. WASHINGTON EMBASSY KNOWS THIS AND WOULD NOT HAVE MENTIONED KAGAMI'S NAME IN CONNECTION WITH ANY CONVERSATION WITH REPORTER ABOUT PLANNING TALKS.

3. COMMENT: RUMOR HAS BEEN GOING AROUND THAT KAGAMI INVOLVED IN FONOFF RESHUFFLE WHICH MIGHT MOVE HIM TO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S POSITION IN BUREAU OF MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS BUT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN LOATH TO CONFIRM IT. THERE IS ANOTHER EQUALLY UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMOR THAT KAGAMI MIGHT TAKE TOSHIO YAMAZAKI'S JOB AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU. WHATEVER KAGAMI'S DESTINATION, MATANO'S COMPLAINT IS THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE INDICATION WE HAVE HAD THAT PLANNING DIRGEN MAY CHANGE BEFORE TALKS. OUR GRAPEVINE HAS IT THAT KAGAMI'S REPLACEMENT MAY BE FORMER COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON YUTAKA NOMURA.

4. AS FAR AS HANDLING OF PRESS QUERIES ON TALKS LEAK CONCERNED, WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT FOLLOW SAME LINE AS THAT ADOPTED BY FONOFF.
HODGSON

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